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22 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dorothy Fosdick, Staff Director, Senate Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations, re Closed Session Debate on Safeguard System

1. During a conversation with Miss Fosdick on 19 July she said that during the 17 July closed session debate on the Safeguard System, Senator Henry Jackson (D., Wash.) had been challenged by Senator J. W. Fulbright (D., Ark.) who contended that Jackson's figures on SS-9 and Y-class submarine construction were higher than those previously provided the Foreign Relations Committee. (Warren Unna in the Washington Post of 18 July quotes Jackson as claiming the Soviets are now producing nuclear submarines at a "much higher rate than the six to eight a year previously reported.") Jackson responded that before going into a serious debate he always wanted to be sure that he had the latest information, and in fact had been briefed by the Government's best experts on the matter the preceding evening. Jackson added that he was sure the same people would have briefed Fulbright if he would have taken the trouble to ask them.

2. Miss Fosdick (who presumably did not know of our 18 July request from Senator John Sherman Cooper (R., Ky.)) predicted that we would shortly get a request for clarification on the above matter from Senator Symington or other Safeguard opponents. She pointed out that since Symington had now abandoned his pressure for another executive session, presumably whatever we give him would be used in open session.

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